

A black and white photograph of Michael Misha Kennedy. He is leaning forward with his arms bent and hands behind his head, resting against a dark wooden wall. He is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and jeans. The background shows a window with yellow vertical blinds.

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# Perspective

## The Michael Misha Kennedy Story

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## Jeffry A. Davis Exec. Publisher



## Foundations of Pride

Pride month for me brings up many emotions. Whether or not some believe it, I am actually a pretty sensitive person. Because of this I tend to project a tough outer shell that may seem a bit...well pessimistic at times. Yet underneath it, I am a born optimist and do my best to always look for the traces of good in people.

During Pride month, however, as I see our global community coming out in full force, dressed to the nines in the colors of the rainbow and marching proudly down the streets of their cities and towns, my emotions tend to rise closer to the surface.

I can't help but get choked up as I stand on the sidelines and watch the smiling faces of my friends and "family" strutting their stuff out and proud for the world to see. While I may be a bit shy about joining them, make no doubt about it, my heart and soul is walking right beside them.

It is one particular group, however, that always gets to me the most: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). When I watch mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, grandparents, children and friends out openly showing their love for their GLBT family members, I can't help but get emotional.

Much of this comes from the support I get from my own family. My mother and my brothers have grown to be very supportive. But it was my grandmother who first wholly and completely accepted my being gay and is the foundation of support I have built my life upon.

Never once did she shy away from speaking with me openly and honestly about my life and my sexuality. We spent hours upon hours together talking about the good, the bad and everything in between. Had I been as involved in the community as I am now, I have no doubt she would have been among the parade marchers, proudly holding a sign referring to President Bush being an ass and wearing a loud pink t-shirt declaring "I love my gay grandson". Of course, knowing my grandmother's sense of humor, it may instead have read, "My grandson likes dick and so do I." I never said she was a demure grandmother.

It has been three years since she passed away and I miss her more each day.

There are many of our community who don't have the luxury of support or even tolerance from their families. We have all heard hundreds of coming out stories over

and again that have gone horribly wrong. Good people who just happen to be gay have been physically or sexually attacked, locked up in mental institutions, subjected to shock treatments, torture and lobotomies and even killed—all by their own families—just for being born gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

It breaks my heart every time I hear another story like this. The only thing that brings me any hope is that these stories are becoming fewer. Thanks to enormous strides for acceptance taken by GSA Organizations, Student Advocate Groups and so many others who live their lives every day working to make sure that one day—one amazingly wonderful day—we will never hear this type of horror story again.

I pray the day is closer than we think.

In this issue of MGW are the normal features we bring you. Swanner and Judd, Q&A, Boyce Hinman's Political Column, food an entertainment reviews, a great celebrity interview with Charlie David and a special look at the women we love to watch on television.

But for me, the real treat of this issue is the feature on well-known and much loved Sacramento artist Michael Misha Kennedy. I have known Michael and loved his work for many years and am thankful MGW was entrusted to bring his story to our community.

It is people like Michael who make me remember why it is important for us to continue to keep striving to make our community—and our world—a better place for all people. Is also people like Michael who remind me to stop and appreciate the beauty around me.

Michael, my grandmother, and all those who have supported and loved me throughout my life are all vibrant, colorful parts of my own personal Rainbow Of Pride that I proudly keep in my heart. They march with me not in a parade, but with each step I take. Each day, each minute and every second of my life.

*Jeffry Davis*

MGW Executive Publisher

# Q AND A

Compiled by  
Tony G.

The other day I was driving downtown and I noticed a bunch of kids in caps and gowns in line for graduation. It made me think back to my High School days.

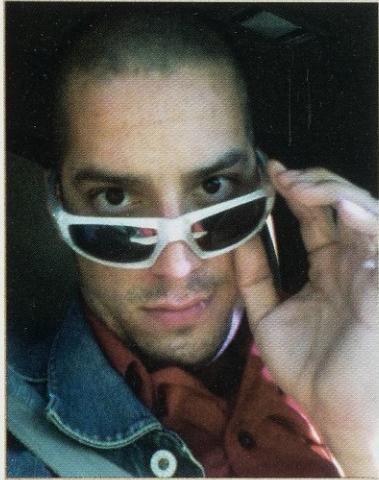
Looking at all their oily, pimpled faces got me a little nostalgic. Then I got to wondering how much have I really changed since high school? Hence the inspiration for this month's question. (Finally a question that didn't take people an hour to answer.)

After asking everyone what they were like in High School, I came to a solid conclusion: people

really don't change all that much. They like to think they have...but they haven't.

I guess it's more a matter of getting to know and understand who you are over time rather than people actually "changing". Even me. At first I thought I had changed a lot, but really take a good look back—I am still just a loud, obnoxious, outspoken, goofy fun-loving guy. All that has really changed, is that I am a complete and total stud now—oozing with sex appeal.

I guess not much has changed since graduation.



## ( What Were You Like In High School? )



AMBER, SACRAMENTO BARBACK

I was a hippie skater girl and would ditch class every chance I got. That's when I ended up finishing school in home studies. (ASKED AT MERC)



G, SACRAMENTO FORKLIFT OPERATOR

Really quiet. Part of the nerd crew, but it all changed when I got out. (ASKED AT HARLOWS)



KEN, SACRAMENTO TEACHER

I was the elusive, suburban, yearbook editor. I published unflattering pictures of enemies and bitches who deserved to be overthrown. I had a tight circle of friends, the varsity cheer captain, the drama lead, and the softball bunch—who were all more outgoing than me. (ASKED AT DEPOT)



CHRISTOPHER, SACRAMENTO SALES REP

I didn't really see myself in any group. I was the kid that wandered from gathering to gathering during lunch. I guess I was the unlonely loner. Someone described me in high school as the "Hip Hippie". (ASKED AT MERC)



GARAMENZA, SACRAMENTO CLAIMS ADJUSTER

A skinny bitch ... Karam is awful. (ASKED AT MERC)



MARISOL, SACRAMENTO SELF EMPLOYED

I was shy and all over the place socially. (ASKED AT MERC)



DORA, SACRAMENTO CLAIMS ADJUSTER

In my head I was an extrovert—well known—many friends, smiled a ton, very few enemies—if any. Known to be nice. What the hell am I doing in insurance? (ASKED AT MERC)



GREG, SACRAMENTO TEACHER

An odd fusion of nerd-jock and closet-case. I played basketball, edited the newspaper, took honors classes and avoided anything and everything gay. I'm making up for lost time. (ASKED AT DEPOT)



STEPHANIE, SACRAMENTO BAR MANAGER

I was a free-spirited woman on my way to the big city college. That is no REAL goals, just socializing and making new friends. And still a virgin. How happy could a girl be? (ASKED AT MERC)

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# Taking The Next Step

By Boyce Hinman  
The Lambda Letters Project

May 31 was the deadline for getting bills approved by the Legislative Appropriations Committees and many good bills were approved by the committees. Next they go to the Senate or Assembly floors for their final vote in their house of origin. Here is a summary of some of the key bills.

The following bills were approved by the Assembly or Senate Appropriations Committees.

AB 43 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco) Allows same-sex couples to marry in California.

AB 250 (Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine) Allows the owner of a home to complete a brief document transferring the home to another person (including a same sex partner) upon the death of the owner. The property transferred would not have to go through the lengthy, expensive probate process.

AB 394 (Lloyd Levine, D-Van Nuys) Requires the State Department of Education to monitor adherence by schools to the anti-discrimination and anti-harassment requirements of California law.

AB 537 (Sandre Swanson, D-Alameda) Requires employers to allow employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period to care for a seriously ill domestic partner, among others.

AB 629 (Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica) Requires school-based sex education programs to be comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate. They must not teach religion or encourage bias against people on any of several bases, including sexual orientation.

SB 518 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco) Requires the Division of Juvenile Justice

and local juvenile facilities to provide care, placement, and services to children in their custody without discriminating on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, among others.

SB 559 (Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego) Requires that any transfer of property between registered domestic partners that occurred on or after January 1, 2000, and before January 1, 2006, be exempt from reappraisal and increased property taxes based upon a reappraisal. If a person requests reversal of a previous reappraisal, because of this law, on or before June 30, 2009, the county must do it. But the reversed reappraisal would be effective only from the time the request was made.

The following bills were approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate.

AB 14 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz) prohibits businesses from discrimination based on sexual orientation among others.

AB 102 (Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco) Would make it easy for couples to change their last names when they register as domestic partners.

Two other important bills were approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly.

SB 777 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica) Bans employment discrimination in public and private colleges and universities, or in discrimination in instructional activities, or in educational materials on the bases of gender identity or sexual orientation among others.

SJR 6 (Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego) Asks Congress to revoke the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the armed services.

Contact Boyce Hinman and The Lambda Letters Project at: Lambdalp@aol.com

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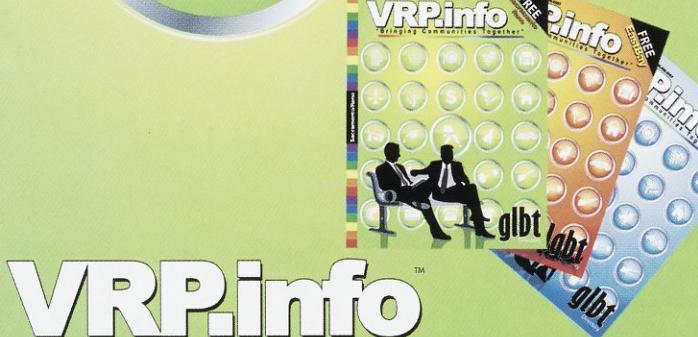
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The skydivers landed right on target with the Raging Waters flag be hoisted up the pole by Palace Entertainment executives. Daytime fireworks marked the official opening of the park.

The real hit of the day seemed to be the Dragon's Den with everyone going back again and again. Raging Waters offers a clean, safe park for all families.

Raging Waters recently donated more than \$100,000 in tickets to Sacramento Valley's Affiliate for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure

Palace Entertainment, operator of Raging Waters Sacramento is investing millions of dollars into improvements and a new attraction at the water park. Three of Palace Entertainment's water parks were recently selected by The Travel Channel and ABC's "Good Morning America" as among the top 10 water parks in the nation.

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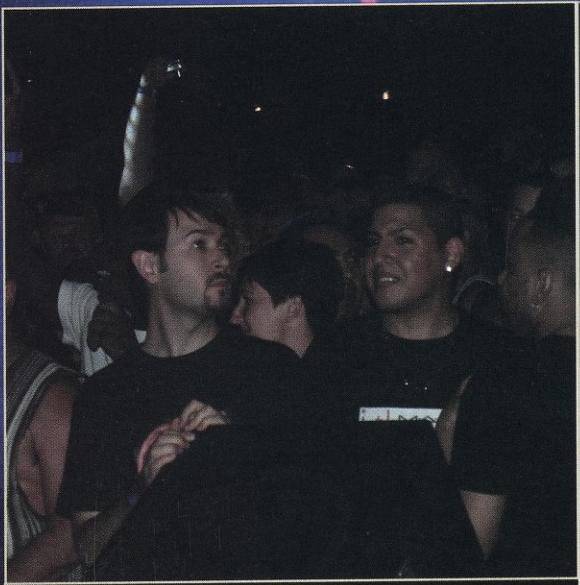
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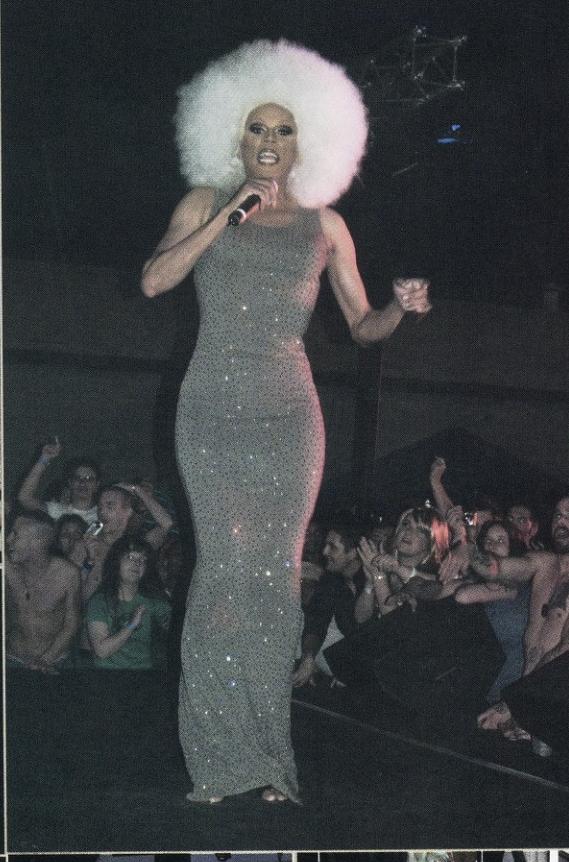
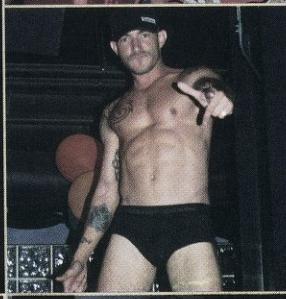
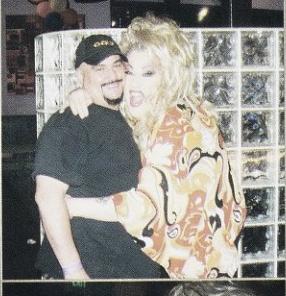
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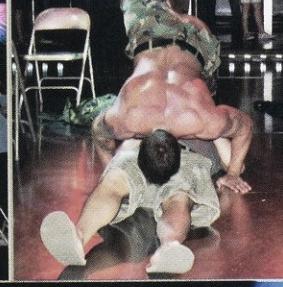
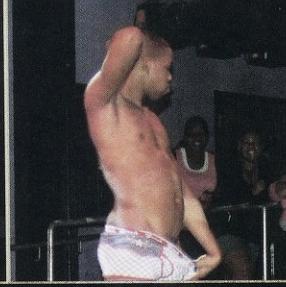
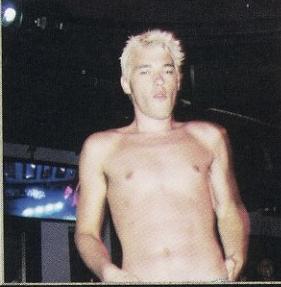
## Sacramento AfterPride

Photos By Peter James



## Brief Encounters

Photos By Rich Jones



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Most everyone in the Sacramento GLBT Community knows *Michael Misha Kennedy*. Endless volunteer work, event hosting and a willingness to help out where ever needed has made him a much loved staple within our extended family. What many don't know is that "Our Misha" is a tour de force in the Art World and has works on display throughout the country.

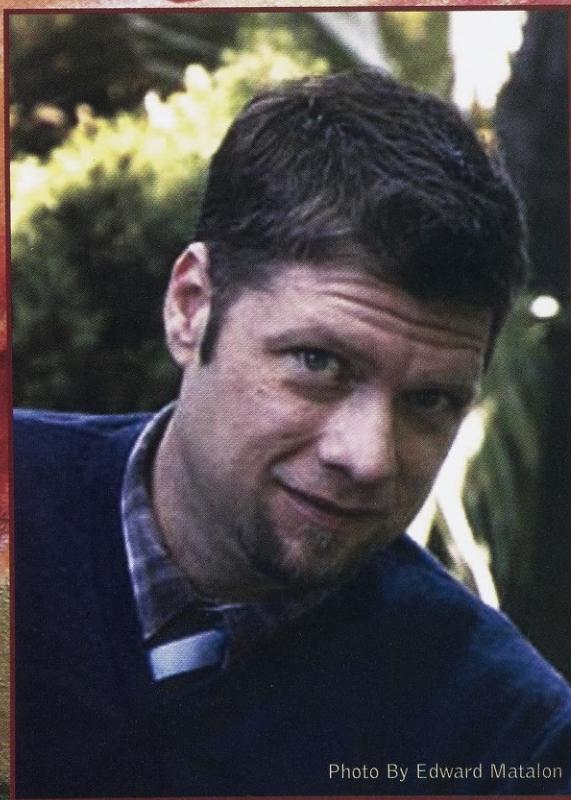


Photo By Edward Matalon

By Matthew Burlingame

It's A



It is a miracle that Michael Misha Kennedy is alive today. Only two years ago he lay in a hospital bed in a coma with a frightened family at his bedside and a community left saddened and worried. Waking to a temporary amnesia, he would spend months relearning how to do the most simple of tasks, including getting strong enough to get out of bed.

It all started with a tooth that had been root-canaled and capped when he was merely 10 years old. It had now developed an abscess. There was no pain, no swelling and before long began draining into his chest and formed a liter-bottle size pocket of liquid around his heart. It was in his home after a show-tunes Sunday at the Depot where he would begin to slip into his coma.

"The last thing I remember is hearing the ambulance workers say 'We can't find his blood pressure,'" says Kennedy. "I woke up two months later not sure of who I was."

He lost 70 pounds, nearly died several times (cases such as these have a normal 3% survival rate) and had to rebuild his life. That included learning to walk, talk and even eat again.

"It was the community support that pulled me through. It was very overwhelming and humbling. I had no idea just how much people in the community cared until—" Kennedy's voice cracks with an emotional edge. He pauses, taking a moment to clear his throat and center.

"I'm sorry, I don't talk about this often," he explains. Indeed, through everything he has been through health-wise, Kennedy does his best to keep it out of the limelight. But it still weaves its way into his art pieces. According to Kennedy it has always been that way; art has always been a central part of his life.

Creative juices flowed through Kennedy from a very early age. As a child he would paint cartoons and pictures on empty Ice Cream tubs from Baskin Robbins. It as the first step to what would become a lifelong love affair with art.

As a fresh-faced teenager just out of High School Kennedy opted to attend college at the University of Oregon in Eugene. He would leave there with a Bachelor's In Fine Arts and a background in Interior Design.

While he didn't do much with Interior Design, he did spend a great deal of time doing social work which often reveals itself in the Urban and more serious aspects of his art. Likewise the more playful works include elements of social play including bar scenes, cocktails, sushi, contemporary nightlife and other playful and mischievous themes.

Kennedy also made a name for himself in the GLBT Community as a performer. Kennedy hosted numerous community events, raised thousands of dollars for various charities and won the title of La Femme Magnifique International '98. He also held the title of Rose Empress 38 in the Imperial Court System.

"I always believe that the community is the most important thing," he says.

He retired from performing two years ago,

but the muse of his art refused to be denied and son presented itself through a close friend.

"I had a friend who saw some of my work at my house and asked why I wasn't painting professionally," Kennedy explains. "It's hard to pursue a career in the art world. It's not just about the painting—it is the marketing as well."

It was in Portland that Kennedy found someone who had a venue ripe for the display of his work. After viewing some of Kennedy's work, the new found friend decided he didn't want just a few pieces, he wanted an entire show. Six months later he had his first collection of art, half of which sold at the venue.

It was also at this showcase that fate dealt a winning hand when one of Portland's top art brokers, Amy Caplan, walked into the showcase.

"That's how I began my art career," he laughs. "From that point she got me into various galleries and different venues and it was then that I decided that I was going to try to pursue a career in art. That meant moving to California and showing my work in the California market before moving to a national level."

Kennedy has since had showings throughout the Northwest, Chicago and many other areas. But one of his dreams was realized when he was offered a showing in one of the top ten galleries in New York.

"For some time I had been donating work to Share-Your-Vision and Postcards From The Edge, which are parts of the Andy Warhol Foundation and I've gotten several awards from that," says Kennedy. "One of the jurors from the Foundation ended up being the director of the Agora Gallery—one of the top three galleries in New York.

"I got an email from out of the blue from the director asking me if I would submit my portfolio to the gallery because they were looking for new artists to become resident artists. So of course I was elated! In the art world, this is like winning the lottery."

Several months later Kennedy was accepted into the Agora Gallery. In Fall 2006 he was able to see his work as it lined the walls of the New York Gallery. It was a dream realized.

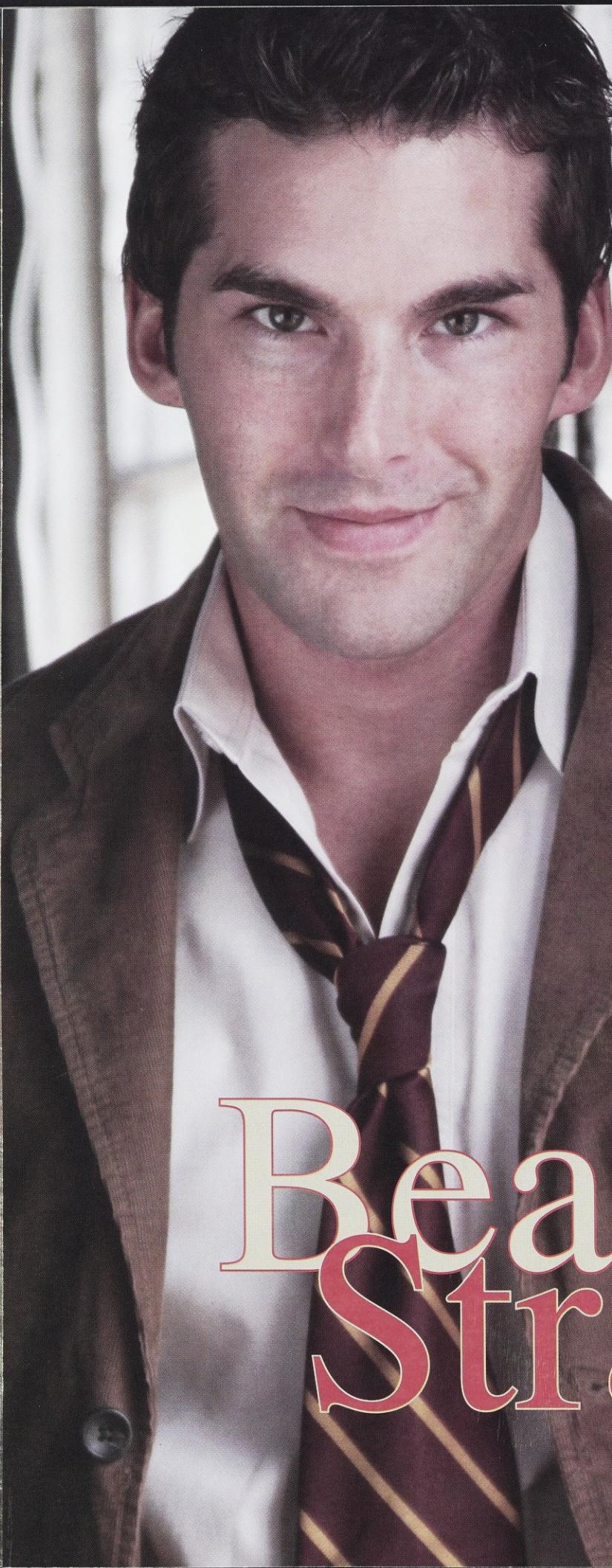
But there are plenty more dreams to be realized for this vibrant artist.

"I'd love to see my work in The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and I'm pursuing public works projects," Kennedy says about the near future.

Meanwhile we can see this talented artist's work locally at Badlands Dance Bar, FACES Nightclub, and at the new Cheffery's Bistro on Arden Way. Kennedy is also showing at the Art Foundry, 1021 R St. in Sacramento for Second Saturday and throughout July.

You can keep up to date with Michael Misha Kennedy by logging on to mmkgallery.com

# Wonderful Life



From Dante's  
Cove To A Four  
Letter Word,  
Charlie David  
Carves His Niche  
In Gay Cinema  
Culture

# Beautiful Stranger



## **Playing the sexy hero with a heart of gold on Dante's Cove may be closer to the real life Charlie David, but he shines as a bad boy hustler in A Four Letter Word featured in San Francisco's GLBT Film Festival "Frameline 31"**

*You play Stephen, a hustler bad boy. Could you relate at all to this kind of character?*

I was really excited to play Stephen because he's a departure from the sweet innocent boys I usually play. I'm often cast as the boy next door who you'd like to bring home and introduce to your parents. The opportunity to play a conniving character was really enticing. Of course I use my 'apple pie' background in the role to come across as someone who's completely together...

*What did you as an actor do to make Stephen likeable?*

The redeemable quality about Stephen is his hunger for love. I think anyone who is actively seeking love is likeable to an audience because it's a universally understood physical need just like food and water. What gets Stephen in trouble is his narrow mindedness and propensity to lie. He never allows anyone to see who he truly is and becomes his own worst enemy. He wants to feel love so badly but doesn't understand that one has to truly open oneself up to give and receive it.

*Initially, Stephen was turned off by Luke's flamboyance. What do you think made him change his mind?*

Stephen fell in love with Luke for a very simple reason: he exemplifies what Stephen is unable to do—namely live freely by his own convictions without considering the judgment of others. So even though Luke comes across as too flamboyant for Stephen's taste, there is something so entrancing about his 'Fuck You' attitude that Stephen can't help but be drawn to him.

*Having worked for several seasons on the gay TV series Dante's Cove, how did working on a gay independent feature compare?*

I had a wonderful time working on A Four Letter Word. It was my first time ever shooting in New York City and there is something very magical about that. I come from a very small town in Canada so the experience of working in a city like New York is a concept that is not even fully comprehensible to my parents I think. Of course I have a really great time working on Dante's Cove, we were just picked up for a third season, which is really exciting. My character, Toby, is definitely an apple-pie good guy and though it's really fun to play the same character from season to season, kicking warlock ass... it's really great to delve into a character that plays a little on the other side.

*How does being an out actor affect your portrayal of Stephen?*

The themes we're exploring are universal—love, deceit, personal discovery...being gay only helps so much in that most of us have self-counseled ourselves to the point of nausea. We generally have a very insightful understanding of the human condition because we've at some point felt like outsiders, which is essential for observation. I think one thing that was a benefit of actually being gay to play Stephen was that Jesse Archer and I could enjoy our onscreen kisses and not pretend like we didn't. It was really nice to work on a 'gay' film with a predominately openly gay cast. What an amazing concept! I'm not one for typecasting but at the same time I'm a little tired of straight boys claiming gay roles and being lauded as brave. Gimme a break. To say it's brave is a homophobic comment and I'm tired of it.

*What was your favorite scene to film?*

My favorite scene is the final confrontation between Stephen and Luke. I love the ability to run around and use space and in that scene we literally have a fight that starts in the living room, goes to the bathroom, out into

the hallway, and ends in the streets of New York. I think it's the reality of how people really interact. Too often we are limited by budget and time when shooting and as actors we are forced to stand or sit in one location and engage in a whole scene.

*Was there any scene that you found particularly difficult?*

Well, I always find the intimate love scenes a little nerve wracking. I think it's one of the most unconventional tasks we have as actors is to get down to our skivvies within a day or two of meeting cast and crew and appear as natural and comfortable as possible. My saving grace was wearing my favorite underwear – Jolly Cock by Ginch Gonch. Everytime I looked down and saw the roosters on my drawers, they reminded me to just have fun.

*Are there any particularly insightful anecdotes from the set?*

Is Mace straight? Well, we definitely had a lot of fun making a behind the scenes mockumentary that I really hope makes it into the bonus DVD features!

*If you wrote a sequel, what would happen to Stephen?*

Since we work in a fairy tale world... I would have Stephen meet a really special guy who would take him through the ringer and set him straight. In the end I guess I wish everyone happiness... maybe that's why I always get cast as the good guy.

*What's next up for Charlie David?*

Dante's Cove has been picked up for a third season, so I'll be headed back to Hawaii to shoot that in the spring. One of my favorite gigs is hosting a travel show called Bump! and we just received the green light for another 26 episodes. It's really a dream job, getting to travel the world. I'm also gathering financing for a feature I wrote called Mulligans. We are planning to go to camera with that in summer 2007 in Victoria, Canada.

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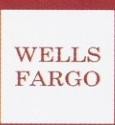
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# Women We Love To Watch

*After the demise of Will & Grace, Queer Eye For The Straight Guy and similar shows, many felt the days of quality GLBT programming would be over. Not true. With the abundance of television programs either made specifically for GLBT audiences, or marketed as gay friendly to their substantial GLBT following, viewing choices continue to get better by the day. This summer, three shows become best bets for GLBT viewer enjoyment.*



## Curl Girls

LOGOONLINE.COM

Curl Girls, Logo's sudsy reality series follows the loves and lives of six lesbian surfers both on and off the beach. The six women featured in the series all balance busy professional and personal lives with their passion for surfing. Drama in the ocean is balanced by the drama of navigating the tricky relationships amongst this group of athletes. The six episode series is based on a special that aired on Logo in 2005. The hour-long special was so popular on Logo's VOD and download-to-own platforms that the channel immediately greenlit a series based on the same premise.

Curl Girls will air on Mondays at 10pm. Logo is available on digital cable as well as on DirecTV channel 263. Complementing the series' on-air schedule is a host of multi-platform viewing options. Each episode will be available via instant release on iTunes, Amazon Unbox, AOL Video, Xbox Live Marketplace and Wal-Mart. Special mobile content, including the entire first episode, will be available on Sprint Wireless, Amp'd, Helio and Verizon phones. Exclusive content will also be available on both AfterEllen.com and LOGOonline.com.

# KATHY GRIFFIN MY LIFE ON THE D-LIST

Everyone's favorite D-lister is back on Bravo. "It is ironic and yet typical that in my life a typical week is that I do a Redkin hair product ride-a-long industrial video, and then a few days later, I sell out at Carnegie Hall," says Kathy Griffin of her busier-than-ever workload. Griffin returns with an invitation to the best D-List party of the year on Bravo's critically acclaimed, Emmy-nominated unscripted series "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List."

In the premiere episode, we find Kathy Griffin busier than ever. Her tour schedule is packed and her workload has multiplied so she's hired a second assistant, Tiffany Rinehart (or is she assistant Jessica Zajicek's assistant?) and a tour manager, Tom Vize, also known as the company whipping boy, to help pick up the slack. Her lovable parents are back, frequenting the gay nightclub Rage for its \$4 wine and happy hour buffet. Even more exciting, Griffin has her biggest "A" list gig of all time coming up playing Carnegie Hall and she's milking it for all it's worth. Will Griffin have what it takes to wow the New York audiences and will she be able to get Miss Liza to give her the gems of wisdom that she so eagerly craves? Or, will Griffin find out that "D" listers can't cut the mustard at a venue as prestigious as Carnegie Hall?

BRAVO.COM



# KATHY GRIFFIN MY LIFE ON THE D-LIST

Still in mourning the loss of *Will & Grace*? Now you can rejoice because Debra Messing is back! She stars in the highly anticipated television event, *The Starter Wife* on The USA Network. Directed by Jon Avnet ("Fried Green Tomatoes") and featuring Emmy Award-winning actress Debra Messing; Golden Globe winner, Emmy Award winner and Academy Award nominee Judy Davis ("Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows"); Tony winner and Emmy winner Joe Mantegna ("Joan of Arcadia"); Tony winner Anika Noni Rose ("Dreamgirls") and Miranda Otto ("The Lord of the Rings").

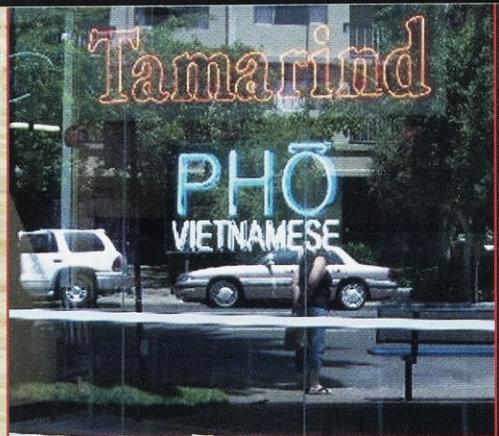
*The Starter Wife* is about life after divorce and one woman's quest to redefine herself after being dumped after years of marriage to a Hollywood studio head. After being blacklisted from everything from premieres to pilates, Molly Kagan (Messing) is searching to find life after divorce. A brief respite in Malibu and some oh-so-Hollywood friends prove to be the perfect cocktail for Molly's transformation from "Starter Wife" to her new life. *The Starter Wife*, celebrates the sexiness, sassiness and confidence of the 40-something woman. The six-hour television event will be broadcast on the USA Network.



BRAVO.COM

# Tamarind Vietnamese Eatery

By Katrina Torres



At the Tamarind Vietnamese Eatery, the ambience is much like the name; straightforward and simple. It's a comfortable mix of pocket-friendly traditional and sleek lines, with a smooth brown ductwork ceiling, mustard-tan upper walls and brushed pewter/silver colored lower walls that embrace the 10 tables clustered between them.

A flat screened TV hangs from the ceiling and really lovely Asian art hangs for sale on the walls. As a lover of Vietnamese eateries, and a holder of a "day job" in Asian Cuisine, I consider myself to be just a bit more educated than the average person in the art of noodle noshing, and Tamarind is definitely a noodle shop. Noodle noshing is a talent which can be very handy to those who are trying to get fit and balance their nutrients while eating wonderfully tasty food.

Ever wonder why so many Vietnamese people are so fit and lean? It's the food, man; or should I say a combination of the food and the philosophy. Balance, balance, balance.

The service was fairly good, as we didn't have to wait too long for service or additional attention. Service was prompt, friendly and efficient. They'd obviously taken good advantage of the time since their opening last year to work out the inevitable kinks every new restaurant goes through. Vietnamese cuisine relies on the right blend of herbs and spices and really fresh ingredients.

I ordered one of my all time Vietnamese favorites, the Grilled Pork Vermicelli, a huge bowl of chilled rice noodles covering crisp lettuce, bean sprouts, mint leaves, slivered carrots and cucumbers, then scattered with chopped, toasted peanuts and grilled spicy pork. Served with a spicy fish sauce that you pour over everything or use as a sipping sauce, it was quite satisfying, although it would have been a bit more enjoyable had the pork been a little more tender.

Myra, my trusty guinea pig sister, enjoyed one of the rice plates listed on the

back of the simple menu, the Mild Sausage served with a mound of fragrant rice and fish sauce on the side for dipping.

The 3 kielbasa sized pieces of sausage looked and tasted like they had been slit here and there and then deep fried, all meaty and savory on the inside and nice and crisp skinned on the outside so that they popped with flavor and juice when you bit into them. She loved it and vowed to come back again.

Tamarind seemed to sell more Pho (pronounced "fuh") than anything else, and not without reason. This is a Vietnamese staple, and is served any time of day. Lots of tender noodles in a savory broth flavored with star anise, ginger, cloves, fish sauce and fresh herbs. And lots of color to pique the appetite; the green of the mint leaves and scallions, the crisp white of the beans sprouts, the purple of the Thai basil, the black specks of cloves and black pepper, and the red of the almost raw seared beef piled on top. No wonder it is a Vietnamese national dish.

All in all, I think Tamarind Vietnamese Eatery is just what midtown needs, an honest, unpretentious, affordable, authentic Vietnamese eatery that can offer a little competition to the slightly higher

brow or more deeply dug in establishments that have dominated the neighborhood for long enough.

I do know that on that strip of the road, Tamarind will be the repeat destination for me. It's Vietnamese soul food, and real soul food knows no boundaries. Either it's good or it isn't. The only boundaries these days exist in the mind of the diner, and with Sacramento rapidly becoming a more cosmopolitan dining scene, Tamarind fits right in.

It's a niche restaurant, and it fills its niche well. It's a comfort zone, delicious dining, with everything less than \$7.75, plus a warm glow thrown in for free.

Tamarind Vietnamese Eatery is located at 2502 J Street, and the door is easy to miss, so look sharp. The phone number is (916) 442-8880 and you can call ahead for take out, but as for me, I will have mine there. I love the feel of the place.



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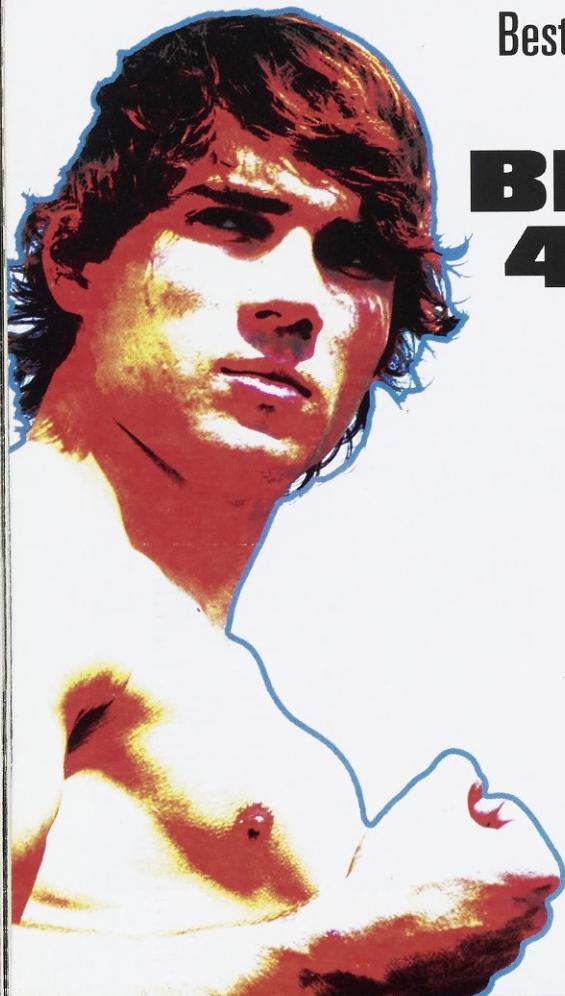
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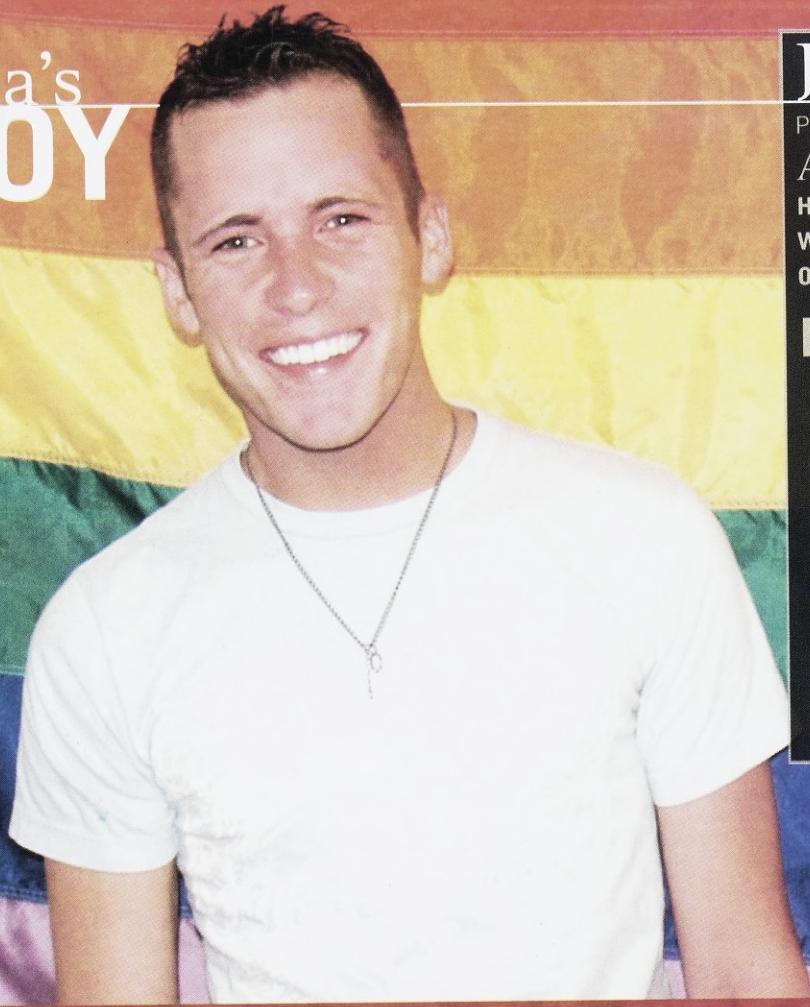
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# mama's BOY



## Jacob

Photographed @ MGW Office By Rich Jones

Age: 23 Sign: Aquarius

Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue Height: 5'11"

Weight 144 Lived in Sac: 23 Years

Occupation: Barback

### FAVORITES

Bar:

Badlands & Faces

Music:

Robyn

Restaurant:

Buckhorn

Things:

"Nick"

Indulgence:

Sex & Cigs

Celebs to hang with:

Britney Spears &

Pinkerton

Thing About Sac:

Rainbow Festival

Greatest Fear:

Love

Greatest Challenge:

Facing gay people:

Monogamy

Work out tips:

Don't do it ... I don't!

# Cakes

Photographed @ MGW Office By Rich Jones

Age: 22 Sign: Taurus

Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue Height: 5'6"

Weight: 140 Lived in Sac: 22 years

Occupation: Jacob Williams Personal Escort

### FAVORITES

Bar:

Jacob's Car

Music:

Mike Jones! Spice

Girls & Maroon 5

Restaurant:

The Melting Pot

Things:

My friends, Horseback

Riding & Coffee

Indulgence:

Ice Cream & Late

Night HotRod's

Grilled Cheese

Celebs to hang with:

Well, I'm already BFF

with Britney Spears...

so The Spice Girls

Thing About Sac:

My friends, The Bars

and That's About It

Greatest Fear:

Spiders

Greatest Challenge:

Facing gay people:

Freeing Paris

Work out tips:

Cardio 5 Times A Week

& Weights 2 Times A

Week

# mama's GIRL





# SWANNER AND JUDD



**JUDD:** It's summer time again, the time of year Hollywood releases the big block busters and they all flop except a few shining stars. This year the corrupting theme has been children. Children ruin everything. Whether it's a movie about children, plotted around children, or dumbed down to play to the children who are off on summer vacation; the fact remains that the movie was ruined because of a child.

**SWANNER:** Perfect example of this was 28 weeks later. Everything that went wrong in the movie was because a child or children didn't listen to the adults and because of it...destroyed the world as we know it. There is a really funny movie called Knocked Up about a one night stand that ruins the life of two people. Why you ask??? Because they decide to have the baby.

**JUDD:** Well... They didn't exactly "decide" to have a baby. He didn't use a condom and knocked her up - hence the name of the movie. The good thing about Knocked Up is that the pregnancy didn't ruin the movie, but made a hilarious movie about the kind of destructive and tragic toll a child can take on the people involved, spiritually and physically. Ben, a weed smoking loafer, goes out for some beers with his buddies. He meets Alison, who is out celebrating a promotion. They click, they have sex, she ends up pregnant, and both their lives are turned upside down.



**SWANNER:** This is a very funny movie. It was fresh and clever even though it's been done before. I loved the way it shows relationships without making any judgments. The acting is really good and the comedy is on the mark and he was adorable wasn't he?

**JUDD:** I thought the way they portrayed the relationships was very real. You have Pete (Paul Rudd) married with two children and all he wants is to be a "guy" again. He wants to have some fun with his buddies and abandon the family for a few hours a day, where you have Ben and all he wants is his baby-momma to want him as much as Pete's wife wants Pete. It shows the grass is definitely always greener on the other side when it comes to family and relationships. I don't know about Seth Rogen being adorable, but his friend Jay (Jay Baruchel) is definitely a hottie.

**SWANNER:** Another case where children could have caused a problem was with Shrek the Third. The previews told us that Shrek was dealing with fatherhood and we know that when your main characters are dealing with having children...the storyline has dried up to nothing. Liked Knocked up, we don't really deal with the children till the very end so it didn't hurt too bad. This time around Shrek must find an heir to the crown when the Frog King dies leaving Shrek holding the scepter and must deal with the news that Fiona is... pregnant

**JUDD:** I liked Shrek the Third, I thought it was a welcome change on the formula. The bonus was, as you mentioned, the Fiona didn't give birth until the end of the movie. The majority of the movie was spent with Puss in Boots, Shrek and Donkey as they searched for Arthur who is 2nd in line as King. My favorite scenes in the movie were of the baby shower with Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, as voiced by Amy Sedaris, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, and Cheri Oteri. And we have a little crossover -- Seth Rogen from Knocked up did a voice in Shrek the Third.

**SWANNER:** I liked it too. The supporting characters are still fun to follow and separating the boys from the girls took the romances out and left plenty of room for laughs. The best part of it was that unlike the other part 3's that have come out in May...this one is short. (that's you're lead in to talk about Pirates)

**JUDD:** Ugh! I hated it. Much like Spiderman, it was three hours of nothing! NOTHING! Cap'n Jack is in purgatory and wants out. Squid Face wants his woman back, but she's wicked. Keira Knightley wanted to be Natalie Portman and Orlando Bloom wanted his ring back. It all sounds very exciting, but trust me it wasn't. Pirates 3 was a load of steaming crap.

**SWANNER:** It was a bit long but it was still engaging and a lot of fun. What about that ending...never saw that coming. I thought you'd like it with all those skinny pirates with bad teeth.

**JUDD:** It was not engaging! It was boring! I was so bored I could have fallen asleep if it weren't for all those damn cannons. And aren't you funny making a joke about my fondness for skinny things, but I don't know where you're coming from with the bad teeth comment. As I recall, Seth Rogen doesn't have the prettiest set of choppers, but that didn't stop you from jingling your change throughout Knocked up!

**SWANNER:** So you couldn't sleep through all the cannons and probably the sword fighting, I'm sure those amazing sets and costumes probably kept you up as well. You just don't like popcorn movies do you??? Didn't like Spider-Man, Harry Potter, Star Wars or Lord of the Rings...sounds like a popcorn movie snob to me.

**JUDD:** And it sounds to me like you settle for anything featuring bright shiny objects, loud noises, and a paper-thin romance. Talk about Mr. Brooks so we can wrap this thing up.

**SWANNER:** While Brian was off drinking I went to see Mr. Brooks, which is the story of a serial killer who blackmailed by an armature photographer who isn't looking for money but the opportunity to join in for the next killing. Kevin Costner plays Mr. Brooks, an upstanding businessman who just happens to be a serial killer. Dane Cook plays the blackmailer and William Hurt is Brooks' alter ego imaginary friend. One secondary storyline is that Brook's daughter is attending a school where one of the students has been murdered and she is the main suspect...has he passed the killing gene to her or is this just another kid ruining her father's good time. I really enjoyed this film. It's funny and smart and just the kind of adult movie this summer needed.

**JUDD:** I was in Chicago hanging out with Oprah and Barrack when you saw Mr. Brooks. But it does sound like one that I would enjoy. I'm sorry I missed it.

**SWANNER:** No, you were suppose to packing but you went out while I kept my promise to our audience but what's really important is that we still have to talk about Surf's Up. I know everyone is thinking... not another flipping penguin movie. Yes, it is another penguin movie but this time it's about surfing penguins. It's about a young guy (penguin) who wants to win the big surfing contest but ultimately learns that it's better to participate and have fun than win contests. The movie is more for kids than adults offering important life lessons. What's troubling is the adult humor that seems inappropriate in this film.

**JUDD:** Right? It was like Sony was trying to be Dreamworks/Pixar by adding not so subtle dick and masturbation jokes to a juvenile plot. Here we have yet another instance of children ruining something. Maybe if Sony had committed to making an adult-oriented cartoon instead of clumsily trying to cater to the kiddies it would have been a better movie. But then again, the plot sucked and the movie was boring, so maybe not.

**SWANNER:** Children ruin everything.

## SWANNER

MR. BROOKS



KNOCKED UP



SURF'S UP



SHREK THE THIRD



PIRATES 3



## JUDD

KNOCKED UP



SURF'S UP



SHREK THE THIRD



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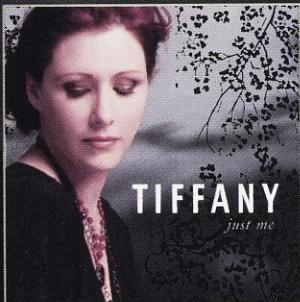
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# MUSIC shelf



**TIFFANY**  
**JUST ME**  
**10-SPOT**

The year 2007 is set to be one of Tiffany's best years yet. She has just signed a new recording agreement with Universal-distributed label, 10 Spot, and is working on a singer-songwriter/adult contemporary album that is slated to for release in the Spring. The album will feature songs with influences from such artists as Sheryl Crow, Natalie Merchant and Jewel. In addition to working on the album, Tiffany is also maintaining a rigorous live performance schedule and she is currently filming the VH1 show, *Celebrity Fit Club*, which started airing April of '07. [tiffanymusic.com](http://tiffanymusic.com)



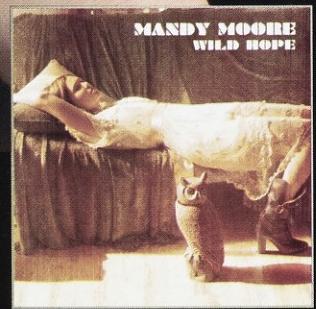
**THE APPEARANCE**  
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Lost In Aurora is an amalgamation of sounds that lends from all that influences Southern California. Lost In Aurora is then the consummate Californian record. With twelve tracks of inspired guitar-driven intensity, Lost In Aurora is the perfect record to kick off the spring, especially while driving alongside a beach town, with the sun shining down and the windows opened. Southern California is pretty magical. It could be the warm air, the palm trees, or the ocean—Southern California is responsible for many dreams. The Appearance is that dream. [theappearanceemusic.com](http://theappearanceemusic.com)



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**MANDY MOORE**  
**WILD HOPE**  
**FIRM MUSIC**

Wild Hope, which is clearly influenced by consummate artists such as Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac, commences with the striking song Extraordinary, a collaboration with indie pop-folk duo The Weepies and concludes with the breathtaking ballad Gardinia, co-written by Chantal Kreviazuk. Moore penned songs like the upbeat All Good Things also with The Weepies, the revealing Most of Me with Lori McKenna and Ladies Choice—a steadfast and symphonic anthem. [mandymoore.com](http://mandymoore.com)

# DVD shelf



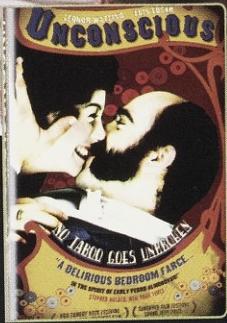
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The story centers on a rag-tag team of Reno cops from Comedy Central's hit comedy Reno 911, that are called in to save the day after a terrorist attack disrupts a national police convention in Miami Beach during spring break. They're not the best, but that's all we got. The movie comes in the theatrical release and the uncensored release. Relying on sight gags and sometimes sophomoric humor, Reno 911 Miami is still a movie that will keep viewers entertained regardless if they follow the television series. A must see. [comedycentral.com](http://comedycentral.com)



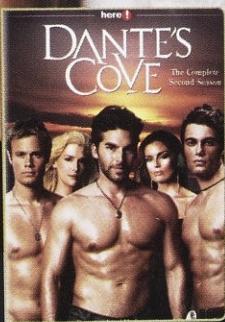
**NOAH'S ARC: SEASON 2**  
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The set of 8 episodes from Logo's hit series about four African-American gay friends in Los Angeles includes special digisodes, extended episodes, commentary, behind-the-scenes features including the Noah guys at the gym, deleted scenes and special features. Noah's Arc, which is in development for an early 2008 feature film release, stars Darryl Stephens as Noah, Rodney Chester as Alex, Christian Vincent as Ricky and Doug Spearman as Chance. [logoonline.com](http://logoonline.com)



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Nothing is taboo when director Joaquin Oristrell explores the early years of modern psychiatry in *Unconscious (Inconscientes)*, a wonderfully giddy Spanish sex farce set in 1913 Barcelona, Spain. This whimsical period comedy questions all taboos. Called a 'delightful bedroom farce in the spirit of early Pedro Almodovar', this Freudian whodunit won Best Comedy at the HBO Comedy Festival and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. [unconscious-themovie.com](http://unconscious-themovie.com)



**DANTE'S COVE SEASON 2**  
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Since its premiere in 2005, "Dante's Cove" has grown from a cult sensation to a gay cultural phenomenon. Fun and provocative, the show has seduced thousands with its unabashed and unapologetic delivery of sex and camp, placing itself as the ultimate guilty pleasure. Season 2 is even more outrageous with the introduction of more deadly secrets, more intriguing twists and most importantly, more hot-bodied stars! An equally gay and lesbian show, this is a must have for the gay television show collector. [heretv.com](http://heretv.com)

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# HIV NEWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

## BAN ON GAY BLOOD DONORS REMAINS IN PLACE

Gay men will remain banned for life from donating blood, says the Food & Drug Administration, leaving in place a 1983 prohibition created to prevent the spread of HIV through transfusions.

The subject had resurfaced as the Red Cross and other blood groups have criticized the policy as "medically and scientifically unwarranted." New and improved tests can detect HIV-positive donors within just 10 to 21 days of infection, thus making the lifetime ban unnecessary, the blood groups told the FDA. Instead, they proposed replacing the ban with a one-year deferral following male-to-male sexual contact.

Critics of the exclusionary policy said it bars potential healthy donors, at a time of increasing need for donated blood, and discriminates against gays. Anyone who has used intravenous drugs or been paid for sex also is permanently barred from donating blood.

The FDA recognizes that the policy rules out many healthy donors, but rejected the idea that it's discriminatory. It says that, while HIV tests currently in use are highly accurate, they still cannot detect the virus 100 percent of the time. The estimated HIV risk from a unit of blood is currently about one per 2 million in the United States, they say.

## POZ SOCIAL CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN

Sac Valley POZabilities (SVP) is the local social group for gay and bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. If you enjoy good times with friends, or are looking for company and would like to meet other POZitive men, call 916-747-0960, or visit [www.sacvalleypozabilities.org](http://www.sacvalleypozabilities.org) to see the calendar of events and other items of interest.

Upcoming events include camping trips, a regular meet-&-greet every Tues at 7 pm at the Lambda Center, monthly pot lucks, and numerous other events. Meet some really nice people, and live life to the fullest.

## NEW MEXICO TREATS SOME, SIGHT UNSEEN

New Mexico health officials plan to meet this month with their state Pharmacy Board to devise protocols for "expedited partner therapy." Under EPT, a physician could write a prescription for a person infected with an STD, as well as his or her sexual partners — without directly examining the partners.

The state Medical Board approved the new EPT rule change in January. The new rule covers chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis diagnoses, but not syphilis, whose

treatment is more complicated. It is obviously a good idea to examine anyone receiving medications, and to ask about drug allergies or talk about a medicine's potential side effects, said the medical director of the state's infectious-disease program. "But there are situations where that just isn't going to happen," he said. "What if a partner refuses to come in? What do you do?" he asked. "And we know a lot of people get re-infected as a result of that."

"In some cases, the patient doesn't want to provide the name of the partner," said the medical director of the Health Department's STD program. In other cases, "the patient may not know the name of the partner." Or they may have multiple partners, he added. New Mexico's health secretary said situations in which it is not possible to examine an infected person's partners are "very, very common in our clinics."

## CARES LUAU FUND RAISER, SAT JUNE 30

Grab your hula skirt and get ready for the annual luau to benefit our local HIV CARES clinic. Entertainment and a silent and live auction await you — not to mention the wonderful feast that's included in the ticket price. \$55 in advance, or \$65 at the door (call 914-6325 to purchase). Event begins at 6 pm at CARES, 1500 - 21st St in Sacramento. A great fun way to support something that's very important to our community. See you there.

## COCA-COLA CREATES NEW AIDS AWARENESS OUTREACH

Coca-Cola (China) says it will hand out 100,000 sets of playing cards featuring AIDS, TB, and malaria prevention information to migrant workers at railway stations and construction sites in several Chinese cities in July.

In addition to distributing the cards in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hangzhou, the company will cooperate with the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STDs and AIDS to hand them out in Henan, Guizhou, and Yunnan provinces, where AIDS incidence is high.

China has around 200 million migrant workers, of whom more than 120 million work in cities. The Beijing's Health Bureau says migrant workers accounted for about 80 percent of the city's new HIV cases last year.

## CALIFORNIA PARENTS WANT SEX ED IN SCHOOLS

Nearly 90 percent of California parents — regardless of politics, religion, location, or educational level — want comprehensive sex education taught in schools, says a recent statewide survey. The poll,

by the Bay Area's Public Health Institute, found that parents support a comprehensive sex ed program that includes information about contraception and protection from STDs as well as abstinence.

Widespread support for such a curriculum crossed cultural divides, including 86 percent of evangelical Christians who said they support comprehensive sex education versus abstinence-only education.

California has rejected federal funding for abstinence-only sex education for the past decade in favor of a state-funded comprehensive sex ed curriculum that includes abstinence. A nine-year, federally funded study released in April found that combination approaches to sex education such as California's are more effective than abstinence-only approaches.

However, the report noted that many school districts are failing to provide sex education as required by state law. The researchers said local school districts need to know that not only the law supports comprehensive sex education, but parents support it as well.

## CONDOMS DO NOT LEAD TO PROMISCUTY

A long-term New York study found that adolescents who use condoms the first time they have intercourse do not go on to have more sexual partners than others. In addition, they have lower rates of STDs than those who do not use condoms the first time.

Starting in 1994, the researchers studied 4,018 teenagers who completed three interviews about their sexual behavior over a six- to eight-year period. Nearly 62 percent of the teens used a condom the first time they had sex. Both those who used condoms and those who did not had an average of five partners over the eight-year timeframe. However, those who used a condom the first time were half as likely to have an STD seven years later.

The authors acknowledged that, while questionnaire surveys can include unreliable information, the evidence gathered indicates that youths who use condoms the first time they have sex are less likely to test positive for gonorrhea or chlamydia seven years later.

## WORLD'S FIRST LUNG TRANSPLANT ON MAN WITH HIV

The world's first lung transplant on a person with HIV was performed in late May by doctors in Italy, say Polermo officials. "This is an important event in the progress of transplants," they said. The man had terminal respiratory problems and the transplant was his only chance. He was said to be in good condition post surgery.

According to the Sicily-based Mediterranean Transplant Institute, only kidney, liver, and pancreas

## IN LOVING MEMORY

...OF FRIENDS LOST IN JUNE

June 1985: Dan Rundle	Verne Oliver Letha Knox Michael Jackson Roger Harlow Rubin "Tito" Vigil Thomas E. Steverson Steven Mabs
June 1987: Jim Ward Glen Miller Joseph Runzo	June 1988: Ken Ross Albert Frankie Cook
June 1989: Gary Largent James Patrick Lawrence Thomas Williams William Waller Schonn Michaels Marc Ellis	June 1990: Tim Warford Larry Miller David Arlen Lewis
June 1991: Tim Dollson Joanne Ruiz Greg Cheever Dale Henry	June 1992: Frank "Cisco" Ortiz Dore Tanner
June 1993: David Kessner Joe McDonald Kirk Rader Eugene Harvey Donald Behnken Duane A. Russell Joe Pitcher, Jr.	June 1999: Danny Freer (Diamond) David C. Jay Joey "Gino" Guerrero
June 2002: Joe Lopez	June 2004: Theodore "Theo" Marefos
June 2006: Terry Loesser Steve Kenworthy Muriel Follansbee Michael Brown Eric Rofes	Year Unknown: Neal LoMonaco Curtis Lymas Tony Martin Dutch Martin John Mayfield

Every now and then, take a second, breathe deeply, and think of me.

To add the name of loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, or to clarify a "Year Unknown," call (916) 737-0309

transplants had previously been performed on people with HIV.

Doctors credit better HIV drugs for allowing more operations to be performed. "In the last ten years," said one medical expert, "we have seen a definite improvement in long-term survival, which has allowed for some to be considered for organ transplants."

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